

Market News

Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission, Recycling Market Development Program

EPA Issues Recycled Paper Guidelines

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently issued final guidelines to federal agencies buying recycling paper. The Recycled Products Materials Advisory Notice (RMAN) was published in *The Federal Register* May 29, 1996. This updates the paper procurement guidelines adopted in 1988, as required by the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). Issued as nonregulatory guidance to government agencies and their contractors, these guidelines also encourage private buyers to use recycled-content papers. The EPA recommends that "purchasers establish their minimum-content standards at the highest percentages available to them that achieve their price and performance objectives, even if these standards exceed the EPA's recommended ranges."

The EPA has maintained its position supporting use of postconsumer fiber and retained its definition that postconsumer fiber comes from paper that has passed through its end use as a consumer item. Manufacturers' scrap, overissue, and printer's overruns do not qualify as postconsumer materials. For printing and writing papers, the EPA adopted the 20% postconsumer content levels required by Executive Orders 12873 and 12995. The new guidelines cover most grades of paper from two standpoints: total recovered fiber and total postconsumer fiber. The recommended recovered fiber content levels for several grades are shown in the table below. For a copy of the RMAN and supporting documents, call the RCRA Hotline at (800) 424-9346, or find one electronically on the Internet at <http://www.epa.gov>.

**Selected Recovered Fiber Content Levels
in the EPA'S RMAN**

Paper Type	Recovered Fiber (%)	Postconsumer Fiber (%)
Reprographic paper	20	20
Envelope paper	10-20	10-20
File folders	20	20
Newsprint	20-100	20-85
Bathroom tissue	20-100	20-60
Paper napkins	30-100	30-60
Padded envelopes	5-15	5-15

Persona Announces New Installations

Persona Inc., located in Waco, recently announced that it has sold six balers to Houston-based Champion Recycling Corp. Three of the new Persona Horizontal Auto Tie Balers will go to Champion processing facilities in Texas (in Arlington, Houston, and San Antonio). Persona has also recently opened a 32,000-square-foot manufacturing plant in Waco, which will supply equipment throughout North and South America. For additional information, contact Buddy Himes at (800) 577-3766.

Plastic Lumber Manufacturer Opens

Syntal, Inc., opened a manufacturing plant in Diboll earlier this year to produce LumberLast®, a recycled plastic lumber. LumberLast® is a low-maintenance building material that is ideal for floating docks, piers, and other structures exposed to unusually high levels of moisture. The product is available in a variety of colors and carries a 20-year limited warranty.

Syntal currently can recycle approximately 3 million pounds of plastic per year and plans to expand to 6 million pounds by the end of the year. With the expansion, Syntal expects its workforce to increase to 25 employees.

The company uses primarily postconsumer polyethylene (both high- and low-density) and polypropylene. Syntal's president, Jay Ford, said, "We produce a high-quality recycled-content product that has many attractive features for building applications. We are pleased with the company's progress and look forward to continued growth." For more information about LumberLast® products or Syntal, contact Claude Carver at (409) 829-3830, or view information about Syntal on the Internet at <http://www.syntal.com>.

Buy Recycled Workshops Announced

The Texas General Land Office will sponsor a series of Buy Recycled community workshops to be held across the state during the next year. The next three workshop locations are scheduled for:

Workshop Location	Date
El Paso	August 27
Bryan-College Station	September
McAllen-Harlingen	October

The workshops are to assist businesses and residents by providing information on available recycled products, how to locate recycled products, and how to purchase recycled-content products. For more information or to register, call (800) 367-8272.

Amoco Chemical Issues Recycles Day Challenge

The Texas Recycles Day Steering Committee has announced that Amoco Chemical Company has issued a challenge to all workplaces and schools to increase recycling during the month of October in preparation for Texas Recycles Day on November 15, 1996. As an incentive for increasing waste reduction and recycling, Amoco is funding \$6,000 in cash awards for programs that record the largest increase in recycling volumes and participation or the largest reduction in waste generation. There are several categories for entrants in the challenge, so both large and small organizations can earn recognition and win cash awards. For additional information, call (512) 239-3150.

ETC...

...July prices for all paper grades remain virtually unchanged from June levels. Several mill buyers are reporting that demand is soft and they could push the price down, but do not want to further disrupt the supply of paper being recovered. **ONP (old newspaper)** is showing the weakest demand and although a few processors are still paying for quantities of loose material, end-markets are purchasing from contract suppliers, while the spot market has disappeared. **HDPE** prices continue to improve, while **PET** has dropped again this month. The market for recovered PET has been adversely impacted by an increased amount of virgin PET capacity, which results in increased amounts of inexpensive off-spec virgin resin. PET prices are expected to drop again in August....Recycling in **Austin** has suffered some recent setbacks. In June, an employee of **Balcones Recycling** was killed in an accident when a bale of paper fell. In mid-July, the **BFI/ACCO Recyclery®** was the site of a five alarm fire. Although there was substantial damage to parts of the facility, at least part of the facility was back in operation in a few days....The **Glass Packaging Institute (GPI)** closed its **Southwestern Office** in June due to restructuring and reduction of services. **Gail Ederer**, who had been manager of this office for nine years, is no longer with GPI. Any requests for information or assistance with glass container recycling from GPI should be directed to **Joe Cattaneo** at the Washington, D.C., headquarters at (202) 887-4850....The **Inteplast Group**, a large recycled plastic processor and manufacturer located in **Lolita**, is a new sponsor of the **TNRCC Lake & River Clean Up Program**, supplying 85,000 recycled-content trash bags for statewide cleanup activities during the next year....**Dave Kahl** is the **American Plastics Council (APC)** technical consultant for Texas. APC can provide assistance in locating recycled plastic handlers, reclaimers, and end markets. APC also has educational and planning materials for plastic collection and processing programs. Kahl can be reached at (303) 494-0167....**Bobby Pirtle** is the new manager of the **Rock-Tenn** paper recycling facility in **Fort Worth**. This new facility, built last year at 1100 NE 23rd, replaced an older building. Pirtle can be

reached at (817) 335-4984....**Neches Fiber** in **Beaumont** is still moving forward with plans to construct a deinking mill for office paper, although a date for breaking ground for construction has not been set....

Texas Market Prices

(for the week of July 22, 1996)

Material		Processor Price	End-User Price
Aluminum	UBC (cans)	\$0.24 - 0.43/lb —	\$0.51/lb —
Glass	Flint	0 - 20/ton —	50 - 57/ton —
	Amber	0 - 15/ton —	40 - 59/ton —
	Green	0/ton —	15/ton —
Paper	OCC (cardboard)	10 - 40/ton —	50 - 60/ton —
	ONP (newspaper)	0 - 10/ton —	15 - 30/ton —
	White Ledger	30 - 60/ton —	90 - 110/ton —
	Mixed Paper	0 - 4/ton —	10 - 15/ton —
	Mixed Office Ledger	10 - 20/ton —	40 - 65/ton —
	Computer Print-out	60 - 120/ton —	200/ton —
Plastic	PET (mixed colors)	0 —	0.07 - 0.08/lb ↓
	HDPE (natural)	0 —	0.14 - 0.15/lb ↑
	HDPE (mixed colors)	0 —	0.05 - 0.09/lb ↑
Steel	Steel Cans	0 - 37/ton —	93/ton ↓

The prices listed above are compiled by the TNRCC Recycling Market Development Program and are for reference only. These prices are not firm quotes. TNRCC obtained pricing information from buyers within each category and developed a pricing range. "Processors" include dealers, brokers, scrap yards and collection centers; whereas, "end-users" include mills and plants. Processor prices are for delivered material in metropolitan areas of the state and do not reflect the value of any collection services. End-user prices, except for glass, are for baled material in truckload quantity, f.o.b. seller's dock. The difference between processor and end-user prices is indicative of the value added by separating, baling or otherwise preparing materials to meet end-market specifications. Actual prices paid by end-users will depend on quality, quantity and transportation requirements. Arrows indicate direction of change from previous month.

Market News is produced by the TNRCC Recycling Market Development Program. For more information about items in this newsletter, contact the Market Development Team at 512/239-6750, Fax 512/239-6763 or at ccollins@smtpgate.tnrc.state.tx.us.

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Market News Subscription Information

The most valuable tool for market development is good information. It's also the most cost effective. The TNRCC's Recycling Market Development Program publishes Market News, a free monthly supplement to the quarterly Texas Recycler, dedicated to bringing you the latest and best information available on markets for recovered materials.

Each month, Market News features articles about specific materials, highlighting individual market success stories and keeping you abreast of market trends. The Recycling Market Development staff want this publication to be truly useful, so don't hesitate to call them at 512/239-6750 with your suggestions and items of interest.

If you would like to receive future copies of Market News, please complete this coupon and fax to **512/239-6763** or mail to:

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